

NORTH JERSEY CLEAN CITIES PROGRAM



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities



Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. 1 No. 2

May 2003

Note from the Board of Public Utilities President

Dear NJCCP Stakeholders,

The Board of Public Utilities is proud to announce the introduction of two new programs to assist local governments, State colleges and universities and governmental authorities in making the transition to alternative fuels. A total of \$1 million will be available to fund the Local Government Biodiesel Rebate Program and the Local Government Alternative Fuel

Infrastructure Program (see related article). I am also happy to report that the BPU has ordered its first hybrid-electric vehicle, a Toyota Prius. Future vehicle purchases for the BPU will be alternative fuel or hybrid-electric vehicles.

As the summer driving and ozone seasons approach, let's all keep in mind the goals of the Clean Cities Program: air quality improvement and petroleum displacement. Thanks to you for your participation in the North Jersey Clean Cities Program. Together, we're making a difference!

Sincerely,
Jeanne M. Fox

NJCCP Exhibits at TransAction Conference

Over a thousand transportation professionals attended TransAction 2003, held in Atlantic City, April 7 - 9. The NJCCP booth in the Exhibition Hall was well staffed by Brian Keelen of Air & Gas Technologies, Dick Duffy of PSE&G, Ellen Bourbon of NJBPU and your NJCCP Coordinator. Many attendees left with AFV Rebate brochures and information on available AFVs and refueling options.

Brian Keelen and Dick Duffy were joined by Kevin McGorry of Jersey Bus Sales in presenting a session on NGVs for an audience of County transportation officials. Subjects discussed included:

- Public perception of CNG as a clean, domestically produced fuel
- The availability of reliable NGVs and refueling equipment
- Petroleum and natural gas price fluctuations
- The need to confirm adequate infrastructure (gas pressure and capacity, safety, power requirements) before installing CNG fueling equipment
- Benefits of the AFV Rebate Program

For more information: contact Brian Keelen, A> at (732) 566-7227, Dick Duffy, PSE&G at (973) 430-7664 or Kevin McGorry, Jersey Bus Sales at (609) 298-2987.

Coming This Summer: 2 New Rebate Programs for Local Government

On March 20, 2003, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, in a 5-0 vote, approved funding for two new programs to encourage the use of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles among local governments, State colleges and universities and governmental authorities:

- The Local Government Biodiesel Rebate Program will reimburse eligible applicants for the incremental costs of using biodiesel fuel, in lieu of petroleum diesel. Biodiesel is a diesel fuel substitute made from a renewable, organic source, and is usually used in a 20% blend with petroleum diesel, known as B20. **\$500,000** is available for this program.
- The Local Government Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Program will reimburse eligible applicants for 50% of the cost of purchasing and installing refueling infrastructure for alternative fuels, up to **\$50,000** per applicant. Eligible fuels include natural gas, propane, electricity and ethanol (E85). **\$500,000** is available for this program.

Look for more details in the coming weeks, or call Ellen Bourbon at (609) 984-3058.

Assemblyman Gordon Johnson Addresses NJCCP Meeting

Nearly 35 people attended the 2nd Quarterly NJCCP Meeting, held on March 20 at the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority in Newark. Assemblyman Gordon Johnson of the 37th Assembly District, Bergen County, was the guest speaker. Asm. Johnson is a member of the Assembly Transportation, Homeland Security and Public Safety Committees, all of which deal with issues related to energy policy and availability. He is a former police officer and current Bergen County Under Sheriff, and was a Major in the U.S. Army Reserves, who served in Kuwait during the first Gulf War. His background and experience give him an appreciation of the true costs of our nation's dependence on foreign oil.

Asm. Johnson's talk was followed by a lively discussion as we went through our agenda. A number of key areas of interest to stakeholders emerged. Several attendees expressed an interest in advocating for more alternative fuel shuttle and paratransit buses in North Jersey. Other stakeholders discussed the need to develop an Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) Rebate Program for private fleets, as well as legislation allowing the use of low-speed, neighborhood electric vehicles (NEVs) on some local roads.

Interested in working on any of these issues? Please contact:

Mike Forcella, Arcola Bus Sales and Service, (201) 507-8500, ext. 66 – AFV paratransit buses

Jim DiCarlo, Fleetwash, (908) 852-6871 – Private sector AFV rebates

Jack Kennelly, Global Electric Motorcars, (701) 446-0150 – Neighborhood Electric Vehicles Legislation



Assemblyman
Gordon Johnson



FEATURE STORY:

State Parks Plug in to Small Electric Vehicles

Cushman Hawks

In the spring of 1999, the BPU teamed with the State DEP's Division of Parks and Forestry to conduct a demonstration program in State parks involving four Cushman Hawks, small electric utility vehicles, each equipped with a pickup bed and turf tires. Wharton, Allaire, Spruce Run and Ringwood State parks were selected, to test the vehicles under varying conditions. After four years, the parks report that they've been very happy with the vehicles. The gardeners at the Skylands Botanical Gardens in Ringwood love their vehicle, due to its size, light weight and minimal impact on the turf. Electric vehicles are quiet and non-disruptive, making them ideal for use in the historic villages at Allaire and Batsto (Wharton). At hilly Spruce Run, the Cushman is used for trash removal in the picnic areas and for routine maintenance.

Global Electric Motorcars (GEM) electric vehicle

In May, 2001, the NJCCP was the lucky recipient of a 4-seater GEM electric vehicle, won in a quiz show contest at the National Clean Cities Conference. The vehicle was given to Liberty State Park shortly after 9/11/01, where the State Police and Human Services used it to transport families of the Twin Towers victims between the parking lots and the Family Assistance Center. It is currently used for administrative duties at the Park. Its small size allows it to be used in tight areas where standard vehicles can't fit. Thanks to a recent \$40,000 grant from the BPU, the parks will soon be able to buy additional electric vehicles.

For more information: Contact Dave Hewitt, Coordinator, DEP, Division of Parks & Forestry, Office of Maintenance Services, at (609) 633-7576.

ALTERNATIVE FUELS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Federal Level: Two similar energy bills were introduced in the Senate in March: S505 (CLEAR Act of 2003) and S597 (Energy Tax Incentives Act of 2003). Both bills contain a provision allowing a tax credit of 50% of the cost of installing clean-fuel refueling infrastructure, up to \$30,000 for retail properties and up to \$1000 for residential properties.

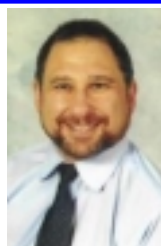
HR6, the House's version of comprehensive energy legislation, contains a provision that would set up a \$200 million competitive grant program providing funding for the acquisition of AFVs and refueling infrastructure to up to 10 Clean Cities programs. Eligible vehicles would include passenger vehicles, NEVs, transit and school buses, delivery vehicles and airport ground support equipment.

For more information, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov>

State Level: There has been no change in the status of Senate Bill S1731 and Assembly Bill 3084, which would exempt biodiesel fuel from the State's motor fuels tax. The bills were referred to their respective Appropriations Committees in December.

For more information, go to www.njleg.state.nj.us

Art Vatsky's Coordinator's Corner



If we had a beef shortage, we could eat pork or lamb or chicken. If we had a tomato shortage, we could eat cucumber or carrots or peppers. But if we had a gasoline or diesel shortage, what would we use? Most vehicles are not flexible when it comes to their diets. Most of our foods come from our own country but most of our fuel comes from overseas. From Venezuela to Nigeria there is political unrest that can, and has, stopped shipment of fuels. In the mid-east the political situation has improved, but is not resolved. Right now, as a nation, we import 56% of our oil. Shifting to alternative fuels and hybrid-electric vehicles makes sense because it makes us more adaptable and gives us more options for dealing with supply interruptions. We can all help to make our economy stronger by supporting alternative fuels and fuel-efficient vehicles.

Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEV) Update

- The Ford Escape HEV will be available to fleets in the Fall. Expected fuel economy: 40 mpg.
- The redesigned 2004 Toyota Prius, with more room, more power and better fuel economy, will be available in the Fall.



'04 Toyota Prius

Update: Rutgers University

Rutgers University recently took delivery of 3 Honda Civic GX natural gas vehicles (NGVs). Rutgers Environmental Health and Safety (REHS) is using 2 of the Hondas, while parking enforcement has the third. Rutgers is also considering future NGV purchases for the offices of Housing and Facilities, including some dedicated pickups.

For more information: contact Michael Quinlan, Director, REHS, at (732) 445-2550.

NGV Users Group

The NGV Users Group continues to be active at the Municipal level, providing multi-week demonstrations of loaned compressed natural gas vehicles and installed FuelMaker refueling appliances.

- Recent NGV demonstrations have included Jersey City, Paramus, Northwestern Bergen County Utilities, Teaneck and Wayne. Paramus and NWBCU have decided to purchase NGVs.
- Montclair, an early demo program participant, has ordered 2 additional Honda GXs, bringing their total to 6. Guttenberg has also place an order for a Honda GX.
- In addition to the Honda GX, a natural gas Ford F-150 pickup is now available for demos.

Interested in becoming an NJCCP Member?

It's easy! Contact Art Vatsky of Antares at 201-836-6285 or Ellen Bourbon, NJBPU, at 609-984-3058.

Mark your calendars! The next **NJCCP quarterly meeting** will be held at the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, One Newark Center on **Thursday, June 19, 2003 at 9:30 AM** Please plan to join us!